From:

Chaurie G Van Driel [cgvandriel@juno.com] Tuesday, October 31, 2000 7:05 PM access@fcc.gov

Sent:

To:

info@acb.org

Cc: Subject:

Opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported Order of Video Description

This letter is in regards to Docket Number 99-339

Dear Sir?Madam,

I am sending this e-mail to urge the FCC to stick with the ruling made in July about video description for Television programs. I am grateful to the FCC for ruling in favor of Video Description and am looking forward to it's inception.

Both my husband and myself are blind. We have enjoyed video description from the WGBH programs we have ordered. it makes it easier for both of us to know what is happening on the screen. We also enjoy a lot of television programs but have a hard time following what is occurring on the screen. I applaud the FCC for making such a bold move to allow the visually impaired to also enjoy this media. We urge you strongly to follow through with your ruling. The petitioners have not shown any new information since the FCC reached the decision and issued it.

Sincerely, I urge you to push the matter of video description forward. It will benefit not only the blind community, but all affected parties. Thank you for your time

Chaurie G Van Driel

From:

Richard H Van Driel [rickvandriel@juno.com] Tuesday, October 31, 2000 7:53 PM access@fcc.gov info@acb.org Docket Number 99-339

Sent:

To: Cc:

Subject:

"IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION REGARDING OFFICIAL **RULING FOR VIDEO DESCRIPTION"**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am totally blind and like many Americans, I enjoy TV programs. However, I have noticed that many programs are becoming very visual. It has become difficult to determine between dialogue or sound what's happening on the screen. Descriptive programing has become more important for me to know what is happening on the screen and enjoy all the action in a program like everyone else. Please stand firm on your decision to enforce descriptive programing on television.

Sincerely

Richard Van Driel

From:

6053312131@shoutmail.com

Sent: To: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 7:37 PM

info@acb.org

Subject:

Regarding opposition to petitioners to docket number 99-339

Dear Sir,

I am writing in opposition to the petitioners who have submitted petitions against your July ruling regarding descriptive video. Descriptive video has been an integral part of my life for almost a decade. Through rented and borrowed DVS movies, I have been more able to follow the plot, and have received vital information here to for left up to guesswork. I have noticed that closed captioning is available to deaf persons everywhere, but that vital information on the screens of televisions are often not able to be discerned by blind individuals.

The petitioners that are against the rules that you set forth have not provided any new information and their position on this topic seems to be illogical. Please continue to take a stand for blind television viewers by enforcing the regulation that you put out in July. I look forward to turning on my television in April 2002 and having all of the programs be described in detail for the first time.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ver Steeg 2505 S. Willow Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57105

This message was sent courtesy of iNetNow. Go to http://www.inetnow.com to sign up.

From:

Margo Volterra [mnv@WORLD.STD.COM] Wednesday, November 01, 2000 8:22 PM

Sent: To:

access@fcc.gov info@acb.org

Cc:

Subject:

In opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of Docket No. 99-339

Margalie Salas, Secretary,

I am strongly in opposition to the reconsideration of the reported Order on Video Description. I heartily appreciate the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing descriptive video. I hasten to add, that I am sighted and happen to enjoy this feature, as it augments my appreciation of the programming and allows me to multi-task, if you will... my eyes need not be glued to the TV.

Obviously, this is not an option for the blind or visually impaired, and as such, this service is a necessity, especially in an emergency. Having the message scroll across the screen (as is now the law), is useless to a blind or visually impared.

Further, it is my understanding that no new information was provided at the time of this petition for reconsideration, and that the National Federation of the Blind, does not speak for all blind people.

Sincerely, Margo Volterra

From: CatherineGJohn@aol.com

Sent: Saturday, November 04, 2000 12:11 PM

To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

I would like to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description for television programming. This is very important for anyone (including myself) who cannot see the screen, to have an alternate means (i.e. video description) for knowing what is happening on television.

I am looking forward to turning on my TV set in April, 2002 and enjoying television shows with my family and friends and to useing the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I am "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESTCRIPTION."

Thank you very much, Robert E. Walker, Jr.

e-mail - rewalkerjr@home.com

From:

Walnut6@aol.com

Sent:

Tuesday, November 07, 2000 9:00 PM

To: Subject:

info@acb.org Docket No 99-339

Lyn J.Walsh 107 Orion Court Cary, North Carolina 27513

Magalie Salas, Secretary The Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am submitting this letter in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. I was very pleased with the Commissioners of the FTC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description for people who are blind and visually impaired. In fact was eagerly looking forward to April 2002, when television shows could be enjoyed by the visually impaired due to the video descriptions.

Therefore, I urge the Commissioners, since no new information has been presented, to reaffirm the value of video descriptions and to sustain the position they took in July.

Thank you.

Lyn J.Walsh

From:

Walnut6@aol.com

Sent: To:

Tuesday, November 07, 2000 8:55 PM info@acb.org
Docket No99-339

Subject:

Michael K. Walsh 107 Orion Court Cary, North Carolina 27513

Magalie Salas, Secretary The Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am submitting this letter in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. I was very pleased with the Commissioners of the FTC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description for people who are blind and visually impaired. In fact was eagerly looking forward to April 2002, when television shows could be enjoyed by the visually impaired due to the video descriptions.

Therefore, I urge the Commissioners, since no new information has been presented, to reaffirm the value of video descriptions and to sustain the position they took in July.

Thank you.

Michael K. Walsh

From: Sent:

John Reilly [jreilly@21stcentury.net] Saturday, November 11, 2000 5:45 PM access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org

To:

Subject:

SAP in Movies

Magalie Salas The Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket # 99-339

It's unconscionable that the big money interests in the entertainment world would not want blind or visually impaired individuals to have access to movies, TV and DVCs. They're crying that it's too expensive. Their only concern is the loss of 2-3% of profit, at most. The FCC has taken the initiate in this matter. It's the media industry that needs to be reminded that their consumers do include the blind and visually impaired. Maybe it will take disabilities activists to tape over the lens of movie projectors so the visual audiences will experience how the visually disabled enjoy movies. Or maybe blacking out the video of TV stations so only the audio is transmitted.

The industry needs to be reminded that the fastest growing segment of the population are those over age 55. And within this group, the fastest growing group are the visually impaired Baby Boomers who have money. It is not the usual "blind crowd" the industry should worry about. They will incur the wrath of moneyed persons.

1.8-

Yours truly,

Patricia V. Ward LCSW, BCD 6033 North Sheridan Road-32K Chicago, IL 60660 773-784-7863

From: Glenda Warner [KB7NMH@Valint.Net]

Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 3:10 AM

To: info@acb.org

Subject: Fw: Docket Number 99-339, American Council of the Blind national

office.

---- Original Message ----From: Glenda Warner
To: access@fcc.gov

Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 12:07 AM

Subject: Docket Number 99-339, FCC Disability Rights Office

November 8, 2000

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

Frank Warner, Sr. 810 S. 4th Avenue Walla Walla, WA 99362

Re: Docket Number 99-339

Attention: Magalie Salas, Secretary

I am writing to express my appreciation to the commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description for television programming.

I am blind and until the day I sat with my wife and enjoyed watching a movie with the help of video description I had no use for television as it was for sighted people. There were too many non-speaking parts which required vision to understand what was taking place. with the help of descriptive video I was able to follow and enjoy the movie. It provided enjoyment in a world of darkness.

I am looking forward to turning on our television in April 2002 to enjoy shows with my family and friends using video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

Again I wish to say thank you to the Commissioners of the FCC for considering the blind and visually impaired in their vote for descriptive video. It is my understanding that they have received petitions to reconsider and that these petitioners have not provided any new information not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. Pleas stand firm on this ruling as the blind and visually impaired deserve the right to enjoy television as much as the sighted world does.

Sincerely,

Frank Warner, Sr.

gw

From: Sent:

Frank Wedge [mgnochq@kans.com] Wednesday, November 01, 2000 9:11 AM info@acb.org Video Description

To: Subject:

It's important to support description video and that it be made more available to the blind. The U.S. government throws so much money away (out the window), I hope we can keep some of it for our own people. The blind need to have Descriptive Video available to them in a greater form.

Frank Wedge P.O. Box 3 Larned, Kansas 67550 316-285-7432

TO: FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FROM:

army Weller

SUBJECT: DOCKET NO. 99-339

SUBMITTING COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE

REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION

DATE:

10/31/00

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the FOC July 21st vote.

I am in favor of requiring the networks to provide video description for television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers by April 2002.

Please support this step by delivering television that is accessible to all viewers. It is very critical for someone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means. (i.e., video description) Being able to enjoy the visual aspects of programming would truly enhance my viewing experience.

When the FCC rules in favor of video description, there will be a widespread benefit to society. Since there are many different age groups and levels of sight affected by blindness, you will be touching the lives of many.

Please also note that the petitioners have not provided any new information, which was not already known at the time of the FCC ruling.

Thank you very much for your time and support. I would urge you to place yourself in a blind or visually impaired adult or child's shoes when you consider your decision. Please picture the benefits of video description the next time you watch television with your eyes closed.

Please remember that video description would provide immense value to viewers like me.

In gratitude,

Amy Williams 6600 Boulevard View Apt A1

Alexandria, VA 22307

Phyllis M. Williams 37 Cherokee Trail Fletcher, NC 29832

November 8, 2000

Ms. Magalie Salas, Secretary The Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-39

Comments Submitted: 'IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION"

As a visually impaired person, I would like to thank the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing the essential information service to people who are blind or visually impaired. I have been looking forward to April 2002 when I can turn on my television in my home and receive video description. I now receive videos from the North Carolina Library for the Visually Impaired, Talking Books Program. They are so enjoyable, but limited in number. I am really surprised to "hear" how much I have been missing when watching a movie in my home or at the theater. I am a part of a fifty-member Low Vision Support Group who will greatly benefit form this service.

I inherited RP from my Father who was blind for 12-13 years. He completely stopped trying to watch television shows because my mother could not talk fast enough during the commercials to keep him informed as to what was happening in the movie. He eventually stopped watching anything but news stations due to his blindness. I know that because of your determination to support visually impaired persons by insuring that video description is made available, I will not have the problems my Father experienced.

I realize that the FCC ruling is a vital step in having television that is accessible for the blind and visually impaired. We, the visually impaired, need and appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Williams

From:

Nancy & Paul Wohlfeil [nanpaul@corecomm.net]

Sent: To:

Monday, October 30, 2000 8:49 PM access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org

Subject:

Re: Docett #99-339 -- Opposition to Petitioners

I have been following with great interest your FCC rules regarding video description, to be effective in April 2002. I have been legally blind since age 13, and having grown up with television, there have been many occasions when I depended upon others to relate action I had missed, letters on screen I could not read, and details I could not see.

Talking books greatly expanded my knowledge of literature and the hunger to read. Descriptive videos from the talking book libraries allowed me to see movies that I "missed" seeing when at the theater. The entire story is so much different when you know all that is going on in a film.

I am most disappointed after the FCC had thoughtfully put together a plan, and now I am equally disappointed that pressure from the media may cause you to recind the decision that raised our hopes so high and now threaten our active participation in enjoying the media available to others. What was wrong with your decision...what has changed to cause you to reconsider the issue. Why would anyone choose to limit the audience that supports the media economy?

I am opposed to the petitioners request for you to reconsider your FCC ruling--Docket #99-339. Please press forward with rules that make TV, motion pictures, and video tapes more accessible to all Americans. Do not open a door a little bit, and then let others pressure you to close the door again!

Paul Wohlfeil 232 South Fifth St, Apt G Springfield, IL 62701

From: David A. Wolfe

Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 5:06 PM

To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org

Subject: Docket #99-339

To Whom it May Concern:

It has come to my attention that many groups involved in the motion picture and television industries have filed petitions for reconsideration regarding the FCC's ruling which mandates that networks provide descriptive video on all primetime programs by April, 2002

As a person who is blind and lives with a spouse who is totally blind I can tell you that descriptive video is invaluable. I could take up a lot of space citingexample after example, however, let me ask you to do this: watch Schindler's list under blindfold. After the movie, and of course being brutally honest, E-Mail me and tell me if you understood what was going on throughout the movie.

Let me also turn the tables onyou this way: suppose I wrote you a letter in Braille. Suppose further that you could find no one to read it. What would you do? The same question, substituting the word s descriptive video applies here. If a blind person watches a TV show and has noone around to explain to him/her what'sgoing on, he/she simply misses out and has to do without.

Since no new information has been provided the Commission save that which the Commission already has, I ask that the FCC not grant the petition for reconsideration and that the FCC strictly enforce it's April, 2002 deadline.

Your time and attention to this matter is appreciated. Should you wish to consult with me further, I may be contacted using the information shown below.

WOLFE'S FOOD SERVICE, DAVID A. WOLFE, OWNER/OPERATOR 100 EAST CALIFORNIA AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307 (661) 336-0116 (VOICE)(661) 336-0696 (FAX)

"THE FOOD PLACE THAT TAKES THE PLACE OF GOING PLACE TO PLACE"

November 8, 2000

Magalie Sala, Secretary
The Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washinton, DC 20554
Docket No. 99-339

The Low Vision Support Group of Friendship Villiage of Tempe, AZ has been interested in the development of descriptive video and programming for several years. We have shared the joys and experiences of descriptive programming with others, and have been looking forward to descriptive programming on television, as well as the expansion of more descriptive services in movies.

We are home to over 700 full time residents. Many of us are visually impaired, since our average is 81. We appreciate quality entertainment provided by descriptive programming and have enjoyed sharing these experiences with our better-sighted spouses friends. As you know, visual impairment can be a very isolating journey; descriptive programming helps to alleviate some of that isolation, and it provides opportunities to *share* entertainment and news items.

We have polled some of our visually impaired residents, and include the endorsement of those who are urging you to stay the course of your intent to have descriptive programming available to us on television by 2002.

Question: Has any new information been submitted by those opposing descriptive programming? We feel there is a real need for this kind of programming, and we applaud your original goal to have greater availability of descriptive programming. Thank you for your continuing representation and advocacy to many of us that count on you and your services.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Florence Woodworth

Florence R. Woodworth A-110 2645 E. Southern Ave. Tempe, AZ 85282 480-831-3359

cc:

American on the Blind 1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 1004

Washington, DC 20005 LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP MEMBERSHIP LIST

A-110, Florence Woodworth, A-119, Carolyn Jones, A-126, Thelma Gilbert, A-145, Janet Dewilde, A-160, Gertrude Hicks, A-166 Elizabeth Grover, A-176, Alice Grozdanich, A-203, Toto Basso, A-204, Gwen Workman, A-220, Betty Mieger, A-225, Walter and Mabel Bailey, A-240, Hubert and Anne Smith, A-272, Mary Weber, A-304, Astrid Thomas, A-305, Gilbert and Kathleen Wrenn, A-307, Norma and Paul Gillman, A-335, Ray and (Jessie) Maurer, A-345, William and Lila Dede, A-350, Velda Reeves, A-353, Dotti Smith, A-365, Janice Vann, A-369, Marie Graham, A-370, Ada Jackson, C-003, Marion Pell, C-013, Laura Miller, C-051, Margaret Burns, C-059, Larry and (Elsie) Ermish, C-070, Rudolf and Frances Atmus, C-102, Gordon Sabine, C-134, Elaine Brown, A-309, Ruth and (Warren) Gallagher, C-142 Larry Gray, C-147, Tom and Ione Karstetter, C-169, Dorothy Dymond, NC Leah McClain, C-188, Fred and Dorothy Harris, C-197, Isaslawa Dresner, C-200, LaVergne Brigham, C-215, Alice Donaldson, C-217, Edwin Nelson, C-219, Harold Hall, C-234, Evelyn Cox, C-235, Elma Lauper, C-242, Jean and Bob Lodge, C-268, Ray Moore, C-279, Minerva Johnston, Janet and Tom Kirby, C-289, Joyce Bestall, C-301, Nellie Meyer, C-302, Elizabeth, C-304, Mary Laird, C-305, Vi and Tom Welch, NC-1407 Edith Laumeister, NC-1417, Reuben and Florence Lindh, NC-2402, Helen Hillyard, NC-2409, Ann Lillard, NC-2412, Mildred Boland, NC-2420 Eleanor Albrecht

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc: Subject: ted_yester@juno.com Monday, October 30, 2000 11:05 AM access@fcc.gov info@acb.org; tedyester@juno.com re: Docket No. 99-339 / OPPOSITION

And also Magalie Salas, Secretary The Federal Communications Commission Washington, DC, 20554

I am writing you in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported on ${\tt VIDEO}$ PRESCRIPTION.

Please count my opposition when you make your consideration of action.

Ted Yester (c) 2000 ted_yester@juno.com

From:

Sent:

Suzie M Yost [s-yost@juno.com] Tuesday, November 07, 2000 7:31 PM

To: Cc:

access@fcc.gov info@acb.org

Subject:

Opposition To Petitioners On Descriptive Video

November 7, 2000

Dear FCC Disability Rights Office:

I am submitting this letter "In Opposition To Petitioners For Reconsideration Of The Reported Order On Video Description". The official docket number is 99-339 which my letter is in reference to.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote in July 1999, for providing video description for television programming in the future. I'm very saddened to hear about petitions being submitted for reconsideration of this vote. I would like to state that the National Federation Of The Blind does not speak for every blind person in America as they may try to have us believe.

As for me, video description has made movies worthwhile watching. I'm really looking forward to April 2002 when I can turn on my television and enjoy shows with video description to assist me in following visual aspects of the programming.

I would like to cite a personal example. I loved the movie Apollo 13 and purchased a copy for my video collection. Recently however, I purchased another copy of it from DVS which contained descriptive video. I was amazed at all of the wonderful visual aspects of that movie I had It was much more enjoyable with descriptive video being added.

I would also like to point out that as far as I know the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. Thanks again for this wonderful ruling and please let's move forward with it.

Sincerely,

Suzie Yost

From: Sent: To: Subject: Sandra Park [sandpark@earthlink.net] Friday, November 10, 2000 9:47 AM access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org Docket #99-339 Audio Descriptive TV

November 10, 2000

To: FCC

From: Charles Zgonce

387 Eden Drive Englewood, FL 34223

Re:

Docket #99-339

Audio descriptive TV for the Blind

When your organization recently issued a ruling requiring audio descriptive coverage on certain TV broadcasts I was incredibly pleased. I know it must have taken a great deal of effort on your part, and that it required standing up to numerous politicians and corporations to accomplish this. Thank you for your concern for blind people.

Now I understand that there is a possibility that this ruling will be overturned. I'd like to urge you to maintain your previous position. Most

people have no idea what it's like when a blind person hears that tone indicating that an urgent message will be rolling across the screen. "What does it mean?" I ask myself. "A tornado is coming? ... A truck carrying deadly chemicals has overturned in my area and I must not go outside? ... An evacuation has been ordered due to an impending hurricane?"

I am a blind person and am also a facilitator of a support group for blind people. Our members panic when such messages come out. They don't know what to do. Should they hide or call for help? It's a frightening experience.

Please help us. We believe that we are entitled to receive the same information that is available to the sighted population.

Thank you for your continued efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Zgonce

Zimmerman, Patti [ZimmermanPatti@CIRCUIT9.ORG] From:

Friday, November 03, 2000 4:41 PM Sent:

'msalas@fcc.gov' To:

Cc:

'access@fcc.gov'; 'info@acb.org'
Docket No. 99-339 Video description of television programming for blind viewers Subject:

Att.: Magalie Salas, Secretary, FCC Re: Docket No. 99-339 I am writing to express my opposition to the petitions being submitted seeking reconsideration of the Order on video description. I have a son who is totally blind, and video descriptions are crucial to his participation with the rest of our family in enjoying television. The ruling, set to commence in April, 2002, will greatly enhance my son's abilitly to receive the information that he otherwise might miss due to his visual impairment. Thank you for your consideration concerning this urgent matter.

Patti Zimmerman

Sincerely,

From:

Sent: To:

ESoph104@aol.com Tuesday, October 31, 2000 10:11 PM access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org Docket No. 99-339, TV for visually impaired.

Subject:

The Federal Communications Commission Magalie Salas, Secretary 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C.

Re:Docket No.99-339

Sirs:

We applaud your ruling requiring the television networks to video describe their programs. It would be so wonderful for our visually impaired friends to be able to watch television with their friends and family and understand the action that is taking place. We are appalled that petitioners have asked the Commission to reconsider its ruling, especially since they have not put forth any new information that was not known at the time the Federal Communications Commission made its decision. For all the above reasons, we are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

From:

Sent: To:

CPURPLE1@aol.com Tuesday, October 31, 2000 6:08 PM Access@fcc.gov; Info@acb.org Re:Docket No.99-339

Subject:

The Federal Communications Commission Magalie Salas, Secretary 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. No.99-339

Re:Docket

Sirs:

We applaud your ruling requiring the television networks to video describe their programs. It would be so wonderful for our visually impaired friends to be able to watch television with their friends and family and understand

the action that is taking place.

We are appalled that petitioners have asked the Commission to reconsider its ruling, especially since they have not put forth any new information that was not known at the time the Federal Communications Commission made its decision. For all the above reasons, we are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

m reference to docho # 99-339) Nov. 2, 2000 Dear Mr. Charles Crawford & Brian Charlson; THANK YOU! for you "ungest action alet" bullenter about the T.V. petitioners for reconsideration of the reported arder on video description. I has issue is very impartant to my husband o myself our litters have been writing & sent and several of my family members also wrotel. again Thank you far all your good years on the ACB Members & the bulletin about the TV, description ruling + apposition petitioners.
Smalrely,
Viginia & Baughan
William & Boughan

DOCUMENT OFF-LINE

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